



## Claim Amendments

Double Bracketed (5 words or less) and/or Strikeout - Additions Underlined

Original; Currently Amended; Canceled; Previously Presented; New; Not Entered; Withdrawn

**Please amend the claims as indicated below.**

**Claim 1. (Currently Amended)** A parachute, comprising:

a circularly shaped canopy having a skirt band; and

a plurality of main suspension lines connected to the skirt band;

wherein each main suspension line includes a lower main suspension line segment that branches into ~~[[ at least ]]~~ two upper main suspension line segments; ~~[[ and ]]~~

wherein the upper main suspension line segments of each main suspension line are connected to the skirt ~~[[ ban. ]]~~ band;

wherein the main suspension lines include branch junctions such that each main suspension line includes a respective one of the branch junctions at which the lower main suspension line segment branches into the two upper main suspension line segments; and

wherein the lower main suspension line segments converge downwardly to a suspension line junction.

**Claim 2. (Previously Amended)** A parachute as recited in claim 1, wherein the upper main suspension line segments have a common length.

**Claim 3. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 4. (Original)** A parachute as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
a vent band on the circularly shaped canopy; and  
a plurality of vent suspension lines connected to the vent band;  
wherein each vent suspension line includes a lower vent suspension line segment that branches into at least two upper vent suspension line segments.

**Claim 5. (Original)** A parachute as recited in claim 4, wherein the parachute includes ten vent suspension lines having ten lower vent suspension line segments and twenty upper vent suspension line segments.

**Claim 6. (Original)** A parachute as recited in claim 5, wherein with the canopy descending vertically and fully inflated, the ten vent suspension lines converge downwardly from the vent band toward a vent centerline.

**Claim 7. (Original)** A parachute as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for slowing the opening of the canopy, including a generally planar reefing device defining a plurality of openings through which the main suspension lines extend.

**Claim 8. (Currently Amended)** A parachute, comprising:

a circularly shaped canopy having a skirt band and a vent band;

a plurality of ten main suspension lines connected to the skirt band, each main suspension line including a lower main suspension line segment that branches into [[ at least ]] two upper main suspension line segments, said ten main suspension lines extending from the skirt band to a suspension line junction; and

a plurality of vent suspension lines connected to the vent band, each vent suspension line including a lower vent suspension line segment that branches into at least two upper vent suspension line segments, said ten vent suspension lines extending from the vent band to a vent centerline that extends to the suspension line junction;

wherein the upper main suspension line segments of each main suspension line are connected to the skirt [[ ban; and ]] band;

wherein the upper vent suspension line segments of each vent suspension line are connected to the vent [[ ban. ]] band;

wherein the main suspension lines include branch junctions such that each main suspension line includes a respective one of the branch junctions at which the lower main suspension line segment branches into the two upper main suspension line segments; and

wherein the lower main suspension line segments converge downwardly to a suspension line junction.

**Claim 9. (Original)** A parachute as recited in claim 8, further comprising means for slowing the opening of the canopy, including a generally planar reefing device defining a plurality of openings through which the main suspension lines extend.

**Claim 10. (Withdrawn)** A reefing device for slowing the opening of the canopy of a parachute having a plurality of main suspension lines, the reefing device comprising:

five strip segments that are arranged in a five-point star configuration having five strip segment junctions uniformly spaced apart; and

five eyelets, each of the eyelets extending through a respective one of the five strip segment junctions to form five suspension-line-receiving openings.

**Claim 11. (Withdrawn)** A reefing device as recited in claim 10, wherein the strip segments are portions of a nylon strap that is folded into the five strip segments.

**Claim 12. (Withdrawn)** A reefing device as recited in claim 10, wherein the five strip segments are of uniform length.

**Claim 13. (Currently Amended)** A parachute, comprising:

a circularly shaped canopy having a skirt band; and

a plurality of main suspension lines connected to the skirt band;

wherein each main suspension line includes a lower main suspension line segment that branches into [[ at least ]] two upper main suspension line segments;

wherein the upper main suspension line segments of each main suspension line are connected to the skirt [[ ban; and ]] band;

wherein the main suspension lines include branch junctions such that each main suspension line includes a respective one of the branch junctions at which the lower main suspension line segment branches into the two upper main suspension line segments;

wherein the lower main suspension line segments converge downwardly to a suspension line junction; and

wherein the lower suspension line segment is at least partially composed of a first material and the two upper main suspension line segments are at least partially composed of a second material that is dissimilar to the first material.

**Claim 14. (Original)** A parachute as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

- a vent band on the circularly shaped canopy; and
- a plurality of vent suspension lines connected to the vent band;

wherein each vent suspension line includes a lower vent suspension line segment that branches into at least two upper vent suspension line segments;

and

wherein the lower vent suspension line segment is at least partially composed of a first material and the two upper vent suspension line segments are at least partially composed of a second material that is dissimilar to the first material.